

REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the aforementioned final Office Action dated May 28, 2009 and the Advisory Action dated September 16, 2009. By this communication, claims 18 and 19 are cancelled. Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 16, 21-25 and 27 are not amended and remain in the application. Thus, claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 16, 21-25 and 27 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 16 and 21 are independent.

Reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating that claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 16, 21-25 and 27 are allowed. No amendments have been made to the allowed claims.

II. Art Rejections

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Betrisey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,360,023) in view of Hurley (U.S. Patent No. 5,235,410).

Without acquiescing to this rejection or affecting Applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of claims 18 and 19 in a continuation application, claims 18 and 19 have been cancelled to place the application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, only allowed claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 16, 21-25 and 27 now remain in the application.

III. Conclusion

For at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. A favorable examination and consideration of the instant application are respectfully requested.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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